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How do we improve our Coast?

Our Strategic Directions

- Connected City
- Protected and Enhanced Environment
- Vibrant and Activated Public Places
- Caring and Inclusive Community
- Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment
- Smart and Innovative City
- Open and Collaborative Leadership

Strategic Plan

Bathers Way

Master Plan

Public Domain Plan

Current Status
Public Exhibition
May/June 2012

Detail Design
+ Construction Drawings

• Delivery is dependant on securing funding.
• Project will be staged to align with other Council projects.
• Timeframe for detail design and construction documentation is typically 12 months.

Construction

Community Benefit

• Timeframe for construction varies based on size and complexity of project stage.
• Typically between 6 and 24 months.

Bathers Way Public Domain Plan

August 2012
Connected City

In 2030 our transport networks and services will be well connected and convenient. Walking, cycling and public transport will be viable options for getting around the city (Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan).

Vibrant and Activated Public Places

In 2030 we will be a city of great public places and neighbourhoods promoting people’s health, happiness and wellbeing (Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan).
Where is the Bathers Way?
The Bathers Way links Newcastle’s beaches from Merewether Ocean Baths to Nobbys Beach. It is 6km long and is only a short walk or ride away for many locals. The Bathers Way also forms part of the Great North Walk which continues from Merewether Ocean Baths to Sydney.
Who Uses The Bathers Way?

Over two million people visit our beaches each year. We use our beaches and the Bathers Way all year round for many different activities. Up to 500 people an hour currently use the Bathers Way in some locations.

Through feedback received at Council, the community has said that walking and socialising are their favourite leisure activities. This is confirmed by counts of the Bathers Way. Improvements are proposed to cater for everyone and make the most of our coast.
What do we have now?

The Bathers Way

The Bathers Way is the coastal walk from Merewether Ocean Baths to Nobbys Beach. It is popular with walkers, joggers, cyclists and sightseers, with over 500 people an hour using the path in some locations.

What you have told Council?

We Love Our Coast

Through feedback on the Newcastle Coastal Revitalisation Masterplan the community has said improving the Bathers Way is a high priority, including -

• increased path width and continuity;
• additional shade and seating; and
• upgraded pedestrian and cycle access.

What is Proposed?

Making the most of our Coast

This Public Domain Plan proposes that the Bathers Way be upgraded to provide comfortable pedestrian and cycle access for diverse recreational uses along our beautiful coast, including -

• wider shared pathways;
• more shade and seating; and
• viewing areas.

This Public Domain Plan delivers part of the Newcastle Coastal Revitalisation Masterplan. The design allows for the future delivery of other parts of the masterplan which will be addressed in their own Public Domain Plans.
Objectives

Community Vision
Contribute to the delivery of the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan.

Accessible
Improve access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Active Lifestyles
Provide facilities which encourage active and healthy lifestyles.

Comfortable Spaces
Provide comfortable spaces to spend time on the coast and improve the enjoyment of views.

Sensitive Design
Ensure all elements are sensitively designed to complement the natural and built heritage of the coast.

Economic Growth
Provide facilities which meet the expectations of both locals and visitors.

Achievable Delivery
Reuse existing assets, minimise engineering and coordinate with other Council projects for achievable project delivery.
Pathway Width

Space for Everyone

Wide shared pathways which cater for pedestrians, joggers, dog walkers, slow speed cyclists, and children on bikes and scooters, are already successful locally. The Fernleigh Track shows the demand for these facilities and the need for shared pathways to be wide enough to accommodate a range of users.

What is Proposed?
The Bathers Way be upgraded to a shared pathway with a minimum width of 4 metres, including -

• additional width where viewing and gathering occurs;
• improved access where possible; and
• retention of on road access for fast cyclists.
Shade, Seating and Viewing
Making the most of our Coast
We love our coast for its natural beauty. Currently there are limited opportunities for the comfortable enjoyment of views.

What is Proposed?
The Bathers Way be upgraded with new facilities at key locations including -
• bench seats, picnic tables and seating walls;
• bicycle racks, bins, drinking fountains and barbecues;
• interpretive signage and lighting;
• shade trees and shade structures; and
• viewing platforms.
Exact locations and tree species to be determined in detail design.
Signage and Interpretation

Telling our Stories

The Bathers Way experience will include local stories of Aboriginal cultural heritage, European settlement, heritage bathing, surfing, flora, fauna and geology.

What is Proposed?

All signage be upgraded as part of the Bathers Way works including -

• the integration of signage into pathways, walls and fencing where appropriate; and
• the coordinated inclusion of behavioural, directional and interpretive information as necessary.

Signage design to be determined in detail design.
Benchmarking
Meeting Expectations

Our waterfront is one of our most popular assets. Nationally a very high standard of public domain is provided in many waterfront precincts, both urban and regional. The Bathers Way aspires to the following exemplary waterfronts as benchmarks -

- Jack Evans Boat Harbour, Tweed Heads
- Moreton Bay Foreshore
- Elwood Foreshore, Melbourne
- South Bank, Brisbane
- St Kilda Foreshore, Melbourne
- Regatta Walk, Lake Macquarie
- Bulcock Beach, Caloundra
Merewether Beach
What do we have now?

- Up to 500 people an hour using the path
- Public Domain improvements currently underway
- Very narrow paths connecting busy cafes
- Popular meeting and gathering location
- National Surfing Reserve attracting surfers and spectators
- High volumes of fitness activities
- Part of, and connection to the Great North Walk
Merewether Beach

What is proposed?

- The start/finish of the Bathers Way with space to gather
- More seating in busy eating/viewing areas
- Wider pathways
- Improved access to lower pathway
The Bathers Way - Merewether Beach

Artist Impression - gathering area at the start/finish of the Bathers Way
Dixon Park
What do we have now?
• Up to 480 people an hour using the path
• High volumes of fitness activities
• Surf watching
• Limited facilities to enjoy views
• Steep, busy and narrow pathways
• Hang gliding
Dixon Park

What is proposed?

- More room to move with simplified pathways
- Safer, less steep pathway
- Wider pathway for large volumes of fitness activities
- Picnic lawns and seating areas

Key

- THE BATHERS WAY
- Shared Pathway
- NEW SHADE
- Trees or Shelters
- NEW SEATING
- Benches or Seating Walls
- NEW VEGETATION
- Lawn or Planting

Final layout and tree species to be determined in detail design.

PLAN

1:2000@A3

SECTION B

Not to scale

Bathers Way Public Domain Plan

August 2012
Bar Beach
What do we have now?

- Up to 480 people an hour using the path
- Surf and whale watching
- High volumes of fitness activities
- Unpleasant and unsafe carpark crossings
- Limited facilities to enjoy views
Bar Beach

What is proposed?

- Wider pathway for large volumes of fitness activities
- More comfortable viewing areas with shade and seating
- Picnic lawn with ocean views
- More efficient carpark layouts
The Bathers Way - Bar Beach
Memorial Drive
What do we have now?

• Up to 260 people an hour using the path
• Limited facilities to enjoy views
• Whale watching
• Hang gliding
• Coastal and city views
• High volumes of fitness activities
Memorial Drive

What is proposed?

- Safer, wider pathway along Memorial Drive
- More comfortable viewing area with shade and seating at Strzelecki Lookout
The Bathers Way - Memorial Drive

Artist Impression - looking south on Memorial Drive
King Edward Park

What do we have now?

• Up to 160 people an hour using the path
• Very popular multi-use park
• Whale watching
• Limited facilities to enjoy views
• Poor pedestrian and cyclist access through park
King Edward Park

What is proposed?

- Access improved through the park for all users, particularly children on bicycles and scooters
- More comfortable viewing areas with shade and seating.
- Reuse and upgrade of existing pathways
The Bathers Way - King Edward Park

Artist Impression - looking north from new viewing area
Newcastle Beach
What do we have now?
• Up to 200 people an hour using the path
• Poor connection to the city centre and Hunter Street
• Limited facilities to enjoy views
• Busy beach promenade
Newcastle Beach
What is proposed?

- New wide shared pathway on Shortland Esplanade to take advantage of views
- Reuse and upgrade of existing pathways
- Improved connection to the city centre and Hunter Street

Reuse existing roadway as pathway. Improve appearance of existing fence.
Existing pedestrian pathway to be retained.
Improvements around Surf Club will be proposed in a Newcastle Beach Public Domain Plan.
Pathway behind surf club makes more room to move on beachfront.
Provision on road for fast cyclists.
One way traffic from Nobby's Beach to Zaara/Watt Street to make room for wider pathway.
New wide pathway on Shortland Esplanade with viewing area.
The Bathers Way - Newcastle Beach
Nobbys Beach
What do we have now?
• Up to 200 people an hour using the path
• Family friendly beach
• Limited facilities
• Extremely narrow path on Shortland Esplanade
• Poor connections to breakwall
Nobbys Beach

What is proposed?

- New wide shared pathway on Shortland Esplanade to take advantage of views
- New viewing areas including picnic lawns, shade and seating

Final layout and tree species to be determined in detail design.
The Bathers Way - Nobbys Beach

Artist Impression - looking north on Shortland Esplanade